

REMARKS

Claims 19-31, 34-37, 39-49, 53, 55, 57-66, 109 and 110 are now pending in this application. Claims 19, 22, 25, 31, 35, 37, 42, 53 and 58 are independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 4-18 and 50-52, and amended Claims 25, 37 and 42.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for extending the courtesy of conducting a personal interview with Applicants' representative on January 6, 2004.

In the Office Action dated September 8, 2003, the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,331,994 (Ohmi, et al.). Applicants filed a timely response to that Action on December 8, 2003.

During the interview, the Examiner tentatively agreed that independent Claims 19, 22, 31, 35, 53 and 58 recite features not described or suggested in Ohmi, et al. In addition, the Examiner tentatively agreed that independent Claims 25 and 42 would be allowable over Ohmi, et al. if Applicants were to amend those claims as set forth above. Consequently, Applicants submit that independent Claims 19, 22, 25, 31, 35, 42, 53 and 58, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Ohmi, et al.

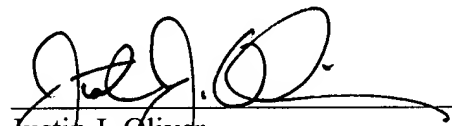
With respect to independent Claim 37, the Examiner's supervisor stated that the rejection of that claim would likely be withdrawn if Applicants were to amend Claim 37 to recite the structure for forming the standing wave. Applicants have amended Claim 37 herein to recite such structure, and submit that that claim is also allowable.

The remaining independent claims rejected in the Office Action and discussed during the interview are Claims 4 and 50, which have been canceled herein.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the pending independent claims, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Ohmi, et al. for the reasons discussed during the interview. Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of this case in view of the same.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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